Sectt. II-27—100,006—21-5-52

(1954) Department.

SERIES.

G.O. No. 85

Dated

[Despatch Abstract.]

Rationing - Rural areas - Scale and composition of ration
Orders passed - Papers [illegible] Recorded.

C.No.56516B/48 Food Department (B)

Rationing - Rural areas-scale and composition of ration Rice content- enhancement.

From the Board of Revenue(Civil Supplies) ref. No. 163049UI V/48, dated 27-12-48.

To D.S.

In Memo. No. 45303B/48-1, Food, dated19-10-48, the Government ordered that in the areas where intensive procurement was introduced, relief shops should be allowed to distribute rations at the scale and compcsition prevailing in the statutori rationed areas, for the reason that after the intd introduction of intensive procurement, food grains would not be available in the open market and consequently people could not supplement the meagre relief quota by puchases in the open market and that they would find it difficult to get on with the relief quota. The Board, however represented that the stock position of rice did not warrant the issue of 8 ozs of rice to rice eaters in rural areas and fixed the rice content of the relief quota at 6 ozs. The Government therefore approved the Board's action. The existing scale of ration issued through relief shops in rural areas of the districts is 6 ozs of rice plus 2 ozs of wheat and or semolina plus 2 ozs of other grains for rice eaters etc. The Board says that by the 1st week of January 1949 rural rationing will be introduced in most of the districts. The stock position of rice is rather critical in the Province and that the prospects of further procurement are at present gloomy. The Board considers that it may not be safe to sanction the increase in the rice content of the ration from 6 ozs to 8 ozs immediately rural rationing is introduced in the deficit districts. The Board therefore suggests that the rice content of the ration in the rural areas of districts where rationing will be re-introduced may be increased to 8 ozs towards the end of February 1949 when the rice position is expected to be easier. The present scale of ration in the statutorily rationed areas and rural rationed areas is 8 ozs of rice plus 2 ozs of other grains for rice eaters. It is but fair that as soon as rural rationing is introduced in a district the present relief quota of 6 ozs of rice plus 4 ozs of other grains should be revised as ozs of rice plus 2 ozs of other grains as in the case of the rural rationed areas of Malabar and Nilgiris district Differential treatment in the scale and composition of ration between one district and another might provoke wide criticism. Even prior to decontrol in December 1947, the scale and composition of ration were uniform throught the Province. A Copy of Statement showing the forcast of stocks, procurement, offtake etc. for January 1949 sent by the Board is put up at (F). It will be about seen from the statement that the stock of rice in January will be about 2,75, 900 tons where as the offtake for the month at the existing scale and composition will be about 94,100 tons. Thus there will be a balance of about 1,81,800 tons of rice at the beginning of February 1949. If the rice content is increased from 6 ozs to 8 ozs in the releif shop areas where rural rationing will be introduced, the offtake may be expected to increase by about 17,000 tons per month. The stock position does not appear to be so bad as apprehended by the Board that it could not allow an additional offtake of about 17,000 tons per month. In the circumstances it is for consideration whether the Board will be asked to increase the rice content of the ration from 6 ozs to 8 ozs immediately rural rationing is introduced in a district.

Sd.....
6-1-49.

The Board has dismissed the question of increasing the ration of 6 ozs. to 8 ozs. in the areas to be informally rationed in the deficit districts by merely stating that the stock position of rice is rather critical in the Province.

Cont.

The stock position is, no doubt, critical but it is not going to be more difficult hereafter than what it was in the immdeate past. The statement at 'F' would show that the opening stock on 1-1-1949 of 1, 68,400 tons of rice will slightly improve and go up to 1,81,800, tons at the end of the month with the existir commitments. The point in question is what will be our additior requirements if the rice ration in the informal areas is increased from 6 to 8 ozs. and whether we will be able to hear this additional burden. It is seen that in December 1947 when rural rationing existed ~~in~~ in all the districts, the offtake in the rural rationed areas of deficit districts including Malabar was 58, 349 tons. The rice ration then was 8 ozs. per head. Deducting the offtake in the rural rationed areas of Malabar and the Nilgiris. The offtake in the rationed areas in the deficit districts may be estimated at 40,000 tons per month. The statements that we are now receiving in respect of relief shops show that the weekly offtake is about 9,500 tons of rice per week. This nearly comes to 40,000 tons per month though the rice ration is expected to be only 6 ozs. Instances have come to notice for example, chingleput district, where the off-take, in spite of the reduced ration, has been during the year more than during the ration period. It will thus be seen that the increase in offtake owing to an increased rice ration from 6 to 8 ozs. when informal rationing is introduced in the distric will not be very appreciable. Moreover, informal rationing is not being introduced simultaneously in all the districts, but one by one. There need not therefore, be any apprehension that there would be a sudden drain on our reserve on this account. On the other hand, procurement is now proceeding fast in almost all the districts and the supply position is expected to steadily imporve from day to day.

In view of this, there would not be sufficient justification in withholding the 2 ozs additional rice ration to ~~fi~~ informally rationed areas when rationing is introduced there. As there would be intensive procurement in all these districts, the ~~XXXXX~~ people are not expected to get any rice from outside and it would be hard to expect them to carry on with only 6 ozs. rice. There would be also much agitation against any such step. The agitation will be the greater because there would be a distinction in treatment between statutorily rationed areas and informally rationed areas. We may, therefore, keep to our original proposal and increase the ration to 8 ozs.rice plus 2 ozs. of other grains to deficit districts when informal rationing is introduced there.

Sd.....
7-1-49.

I entirely agree with D.S. There is no need at all to go back on our original decision ti increase the ration in all areas to 8 ozs., of rice and 2 ozs. of other grains when rationing is introduced. The Board seems to be unnecessarily apprehensive of the rice position. As a matter of fact, against an expected opening stock of 1, 68,400 tons of rice , it is found that the opening stocks on 1-1-49 amounted to 1,82,400 tons. Further it will be difficult to expect rice eaters in rural areas to manage with 6 ozs. of rice per head without resorting to black market, which will naturally upset the market. There will also be hue and cry in all these districts against the discriminative treatment offered between district and district. The Board should therefore be informed that the original decision viz., to give 8 ozs. of rice and 2 ozs. of other grains in all areas should ~~be~~ be adhered to .

Sd.....
8-1-49.

Cont.

A draft memo to Board is submitted for approval.

Sd.....
8-1-49.

Issued as memo No. 56516B/48-1 dated 8-1-49 .
From the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) L.Dis.163049 UIV/48, dated 15-1-49.

The Boards' instructions at page 5 c.f. may be perused. No further action is necessary in this file. The papers may be recorded.

Sd.....
19-1-49.

G.O.Ms.No.86 dated 20-1-49.

Sub: Rationing - Rural areas - Scale and composition of ration - Orders passed - Papers - Recorded.

True copy/

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

NG

15/7.